

March 19, 2021

Dear Superintendent Dionisio and Assistant Superintendent Edwards,

I hope you are doing well. This past year has certainly been a challenging year. We are grateful to you, the district, and Charlotte schools for partnering with us as we together maneuvered through this pandemic. I write to bring good news in midst of such challenges. We are thrilled to award to you and Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS) the **District of the Year Award** (in small size district category) for this 2020-21 year.

As you may know, every year Cambridge International awards three districts (in large, medium, and small size district categories) across the U.S. We award districts that rank highest, within each category, based on the following three criteria: **1) increasing access to the rigor of the Cambridge curriculum, 2) sustaining or improving student performance (based on the 2019-20 exams), and 3) committing to equity in education for all students.**

This award is based on exams taken during the 2019-20 school year. Since results from the June 2020 series are released in the 2020-21 school year, Cambridge International provides the award at this time.

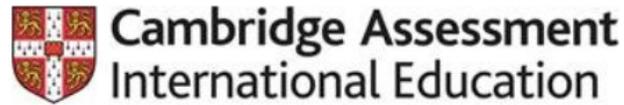
Since 2017-18, your district has expanded access to Cambridge International exams by well over 100% and has achieved a phenomenal pass rate (averaging 87% in 2019-20). Congratulations to you, your district, schools, parents, and students. Thank you for trusting to partner with Cambridge International. Cambridge International would like to award you with a plaque. We will reach out to the district contact for this.

We will also be sending Cambridge International District of the Year Award memorabilia. In a non-COVID year, we would offer to host an award ceremony for your student award recipients and the district. However, given the COVID challenge, we are happy to discuss with your district team how we can celebrate.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Cavone, Regional Director, North America, Cambridge Assessment International Education

March 18, 2021



Cambridge International recognizes Charlotte County Public Schools as the *District of the Year*.

Every year, Cambridge International awards only three school districts across the U.S. for exceptional performance. The *District of the Year* distinction recognizes Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS) for increasing student access to the rigor of the Cambridge curriculum, improving student performance, and committing to equity in education for all students. Since 2017-18, CCPS has expanded access to Cambridge International (AICE) exams by well over 100% and has achieved a phenomenal pass rate (averaging 87% in 2019-20).

“This is an awesome accomplishment by our schools,” said Steve Dionisio, Superintendent. “I am so proud of all of the students and staff on how hard they have worked and continue to push themselves during this difficult time. Just amazing. The partnership Charlotte County Schools has with Cambridge is outstanding and one I hope will continue for many years to come. Congratulations to all involved.”

“I cannot begin to express just how thrilled I am to hear of this wonderful news and accomplishment,” commented Cheryl Edwards, Assistant Superintendent for Learning. “Our schools’ teachers, staff, and leaders have and continue to work relentlessly to stay true to their vision and the goals they set for their students, regardless of the extreme challenges the pandemic has caused. Earning this award is one more validation of our students’ ability to stay focused, be resilient, and accept unanticipated barriers to their learning as opportunities to adjust, adapt, and overcome. We are so proud of them.”

“We are so very pleased to award Charlotte County Public Schools with the *District of the Year Award*, in the small district category. This is a testament to the district’s commitment to ensuring all their students achieve to their potential and are fully prepared for their future,” said Mark Cavone, Regional Director of Cambridge International, North America. “Congratulations to the district and its students, educators, and families on their success. We are honoured to be a partner with the district in ensuring all students are given the best educational opportunities.”

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of the University of Cambridge, ranked among the top 5 universities in the world, serving over 160 countries and over 10,000 schools. Currently, Cambridge Assessment International Education partners with schools in 33 states and the District of Columbia. Cambridge AICE is an international curriculum and examination system. Alongside in-depth understanding of a variety of subjects, students also need to master a broader range of skills critical for success in university study and employment. These essential skills include the ability to: think critically, carry out independent research, evaluate arguments, communicate clear and well-reasoned arguments and understand global issues from multiple perspectives. Charlotte County Public School students interested in pursuing AICE coursework are highly encouraged to speak to their school counselor for additional information.